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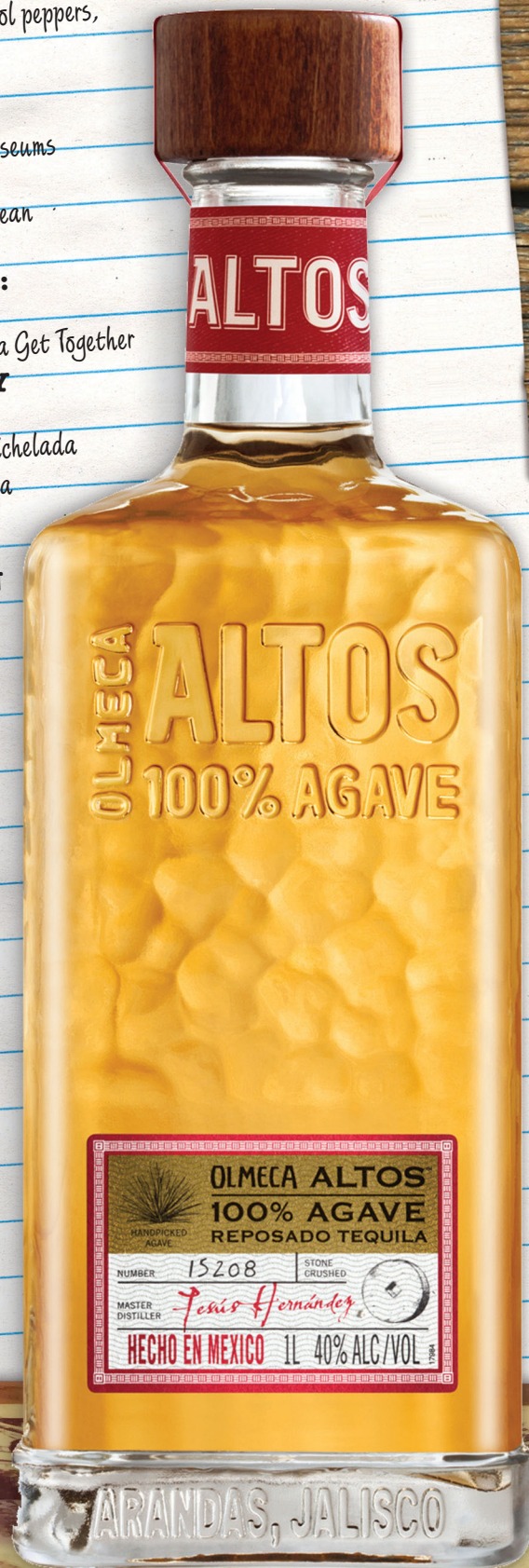
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OF THE WEEK  
→

Julie



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# CITY PAGES

May 1-May 7, 2019  
VOLUME 39 | NUMBER 2004



22



23

## 7 FEATURE TWIN METALS

A Chilean mining company lays claim to Minnesota's water *by Susan Du*

4 NEWS  
THE SHORTLIST  
God is dead (to half of Americans)

BLOTTER  
St. Cloud model's burkini gets attention

15 FOOD  
VEGAN BAKED GOODS  
Where to find delicious desserts made without animal products

16 A-LIST  
MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU  
Dangerous Man turns into a cantina at this Star Wars party

22 FILM  
AVENGERS: ENDGAME  
A worthy finale from Marvel

23 THEATER  
METAMORPHOSES  
The Guthrie dives into the deep end

25 FASHION  
STREET STYLE  
A moving party for Public Functionary

27 MUSIC  
ARETHA AND BEYONCÉ  
African-American cultural spaces in *Amazing Grace* and *Homecoming*

29 CRITICS' PICKS

30 FREE WILL  
ASTROLOGY  
CROSSWORD

31 CLASSIFIEDS  
SAVAGE LOVE

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MANAGING EDITOR Emily Cassel  
WEB EDITOR Jay Boller  
NEWS EDITOR Mike Mullen  
MUSIC EDITOR Keith Harris  
ARTS EDITOR Jessica Armbruster  
STAFF WRITERS Susan Du, Hannah Jones  
COPY CHIEF Bridgette Reinsmoen  
PROOFREADER Bryan Miller  
CLUBS EDITOR Erik Thompson

### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Jerard Fagerberg, Jay Gabler,  
Tony Libera, Michael Madden,  
Erica Rivera, Sheila Regan

### CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Amy Gee, Alma Guzman,  
Lucy Hawthorne,  
Samson Melkamu, Shelly Mosman,  
Bobby Rogers, Tony Nelson,  
Colin Michael Simmons

### Art

ART DIRECTOR Emily Utne  
LAYOUT EDITOR Shelby Lano

### Production

DESIGN MANAGER Dana Holmay

### Publisher

Mary Erickson

### Advertising

SALES DIRECTOR Leah Parkinson  
SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES  
Leah Carson, Kevin Lenhart,  
Nick Rupar, Brian Thunberg  
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES  
Ashley Farlow,  
Luke Gildemeister, Jacob Johnston  
SENIOR MULTIMEDIA ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE  
Mike Yanke  
DIGITAL PRODUCT MANAGER Kibra Paulos  
ACCOUNT MANAGERS  
Madeline Burke, Carly Dabroski,  
Danielle Smith

### CP Digital

CP DIGITAL DIRECTOR Anthony Englund  
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER Kelly Java

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MARKETING DIRECTOR Holly Hunt  
MARKETING COORDINATOR  
Emma Engeldinger  
MARKETING INTERN Maia Jacobson

### Business and Administration

FINANCE MANAGER Bernadette Botoshe  
STAFF ACCOUNTANT Du Nguyen Ho

### City Pages

650 3rd Avenue South, Suite 1300,  
Minneapolis, MN 55488  
PHONE 612.375.1015 FAX 612.372.3737  
E-MAIL [adinfo@citypages.com](mailto:adinfo@citypages.com)  
CITY PAGES ONLINE [www.citypages.com](http://www.citypages.com)  
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## THE SHORTLIST



Goddammit, Taylor  
at citypages.com

YOUTUBE

### THE STAT SHEET:

**\$33**

What the hourly minimum wage would be if it grew at the same rate as Wall Street bonuses

**50**

Percentage of Americans who belong to a church or other religious group, down 20 percent from 1999

**663**

Number of refugees arriving in Minnesota last year, down from 3,000 in 2016

**83**

Percentage of Minnesota high schoolers who graduate on time, a new record

“Dear God, don’t let them find out ‘Minnesota’ is a Native word. Who knows what budget cuts they’d come up with to punish us for revising the history of New Norway.”

Reader Erik Carlson responds to “Republicans seek to gut Minnesota Historical Society for using an Indian name,” at citypages.com.

### A WOMAN’S REVENGE

**JESSICA FARRAR HAS** the misfortune of being a Texas state representative, which means she must witness an annual parade of bills seeking to restrict abortion and meddle in various women’s health matters.

So she decided to launch a bit of intrusive legislation of her own: the Man’s Right to Know Act. It would penalize any man caught masturbating with a \$100 fine, and require those seeking Viagra to first get a rectal exam.

Farrar calls “masturbatory emissions” an “act against an unborn child, and failing to preserve the sanctity of life.” To ensure that men know what they’re doing, they would also have to wait 24 hours after a doctor visit before they could proceed with vasectomies, colonoscopies, and any treatment for erectile dysfunction.

## POPULAR STORIES

AT CITYPAGES.COM

Ely **POLICE SELL OUT** to Twin Metals, weird pro-cop Christian charity

Oh great, now **LEE’S LIQUOR LOUNGE** in Minneapolis is closing too

**12 OLD-SCHOOL** Twin Cities restaurant icons

Kindergartner’s **SPAGHETTI STRAPS** **TOO RISQUE** for Hugo Elementary School

50 Minnesota Republicans vote to declare their **IGNORANCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE**



# THE FIRST

A St. Cloud model rocks the burkini for Sports Illustrated's swimsuit issue

**H**alima Aden, a 21-year-old model from St. Cloud, is very much accustomed to the word "first."

She was the first Muslim homecoming queen at Apollo High School and first Somali student senator at St. Cloud State University. In 2016, she became the first contestant in Miss Minnesota USA to wear a hijab and a burkini. She reached the semi-finals.

In 2018, she became the first hijabi woman on the cover of British Vogue. And on Monday, she became the first to wear a hijab in Sports Illustrated's swimsuit edition.

It was, she told CNN, a message to women like her—women who may have grown up never seeing people who looked like them in magazines. She wanted to tell them that it's "OK to be different."

"Being different is beautiful too," she said.

There was, of course, immediate backlash from right-wing Twitter—cries of "SHAME ON YOU SPORTS ILLUSTRATED" and "Sports Illustrated Swim Suit Edition Goes Full Libtard. Sad." Plus complaints that the magazine was somehow promoting "Sharia Law" by showing what many Muslim women consider to be a pretty normal day at the beach.

Be that as it may, the responses online have, for the most part, been overwhelmingly positive. Aden and Sports Illustrated have both been praised for changing fashion industry standards.

But if you look at the photos, there isn't that much of an adjustment. Aden's sleek and colorful in her full-body suit, draped in a Caribbean-blue wrap and beaming under the playful knot of her headscarf. The only difference between her and the other models is how much skin is visible.



LEILA NAVIDI

The photos, by photographer Yu Tsai, were taken on Kenya's Watamu Beach. In a way, it was a return home for Aden. She was born in Kenya's Kakuma refugee camp after her mother fled Somalia. She moved to the United States when she was 7 years old.

She has since become a UNICEF ambassador to Kakuma—her proudest accomplishment yet.

She told Sports Illustrated that during the photoshoot, she kept thinking about her younger self—in the same country, but worlds away from her luminous repose on the beach. The line between where she ended up and where she began forms a baffling, beautiful circle.

"I don't think that's a story that anybody could make up." —HANNAH JONES




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# A CHILEAN MINING COMPANY

## *Lays Claim to Minnesota's Water*

**B**eneath the dense and dusky hush of the Superior National Forest is a sprawling fortune of copper- and nickel-bearing ores weighing more than 4.4 billion tons.

Our smart phones and computers rely on these metals. They're used in our water and power infrastructure, as well as the wind turbines and solar cells ushering in the world's green revolution.

Although northeastern Minnesota's reserves are considered low-grade, with the desired minerals composing just 4 percent of their host rock, Chilean copper conglomerate Antofagasta believes they're profitable enough to mine.

Much of what the company has in store is closely guarded information. Antofagasta wants to secure federal land leases prior to publishing formal plans.

Nevertheless, in 2014 Canadian regulators forced the project's former owner to reveal technical details. Twin Metals has its sights set on deposits just outside the small town of Ely. A flyover shows a green expanse of untamed forest, perforated by Birch Lake, the White Iron Chain of Lakes, and the Kawishiwi River.

The proposed mine will be an underground operation. It'll need an ore-crushing facility, a waste storage pit upstream of Lake Superior, and a

network of roads, rail, and pipelines to connect it all.

Raw metals produced here will be sold to smelters in China, Russia, and other usual destinations.

Minnesota won't profit from the trade of its minerals. But there will be jobs. Antofagasta claims the region will get nearly 2,000 direct and indirect positions over 30 years.

There will also be sacrifice.

The mine will be built in the Rainy River watershed, which drains into the Boundary Waters, a glacially sculpted waterscape of primitive wilderness given the United States' highest order of protection. Unlike traditional iron ore mining,

copper is found in sulfur-bearing rocks. When snow and rain run off stockpiles and waste pits of pulverized copper ore, the byproduct is sulfuric acid, a pollutant with the ability to silence ecosystems.

Worldwide, not a single copper mine has perfected the practice, with nearby waters often requiring perpetual treatment for toxins. Hardrock metal mining is America's largest source of hazardous waste, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Though the desert states of the American west have some experience, Minnesota has never attempted it.

Instead, the Arrowhead Region has built a \$44.5 million economy around the Boundary Waters, employing more

By **SUSAN DU**



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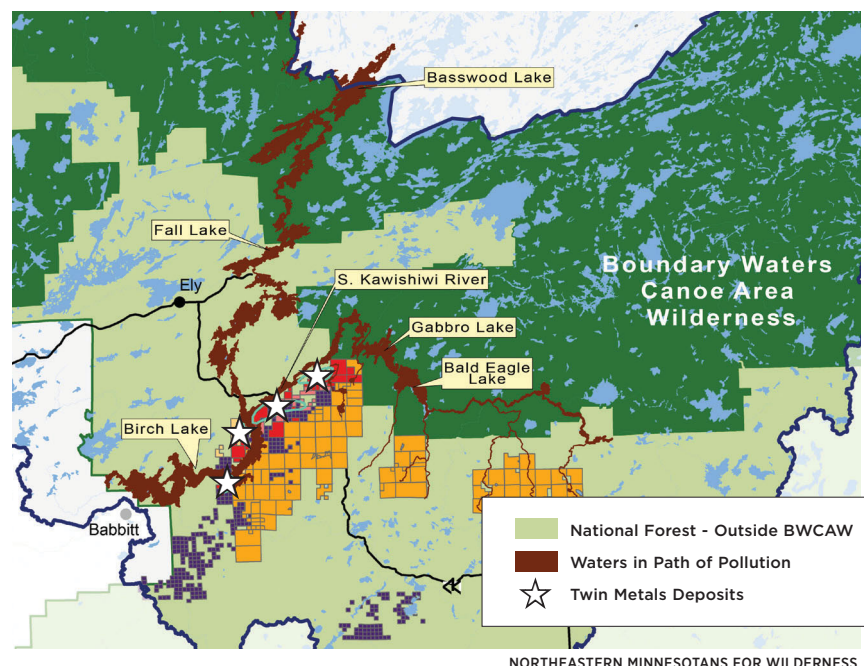
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NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTANS FOR WILDERNESS

than 12,000 people in outdoor recreation. Thirty resorts, outfitters, and outdoor excursion schools are located in the immediate vicinity of the site. The gateway cities of Ely, Tofte, and Grand Marais have become highly dependent on the wilderness.

When asked to consider the fate of their natural resources, an overwhelming 70 percent of Minnesotans oppose Twin Metals, according to a 2018 survey conducted by Republican pollster Fabrizio Ward, who advised Donald Trump's presidential campaign. That includes 56 percent of the 8th congressional district, home of the Iron Range.

But Twin Metals doesn't need residents' approval.

Within the first month of Trump taking office, granting Antofagasta's land rights became a priority. Scientific and economic reviews were canceled. Public opinion and opposition from four Chippewa tribes were ignored.

Meanwhile, Minnesota's environmental standards were never intended to protect wilderness areas, lands set aside by Congress in 1964 to be places where "the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." Former state regulators say federal acquiescence all but ensures that Twin Metals will be in business.

## A SUDDEN HEIST

The discovery of riches underpinning the thin soils of the Arrowhead predates the birth of Minnesota.

When surveyors stumbled upon a vein of copper on the North Shore in the mid-19th century, mining companies began lobbying the nascent United States to strike a deal with the resident Ojibwe. Faced with the alternative of a protracted

The Twin Metals project straddles the watersheds of Lake Superior and the Boundary Waters.

fight and forcible ejection to the harsh Canadian plains, tribes relinquished vast territory in return for reservations and the right to hunt, fish, and gather within the boundaries of their ancestral land.

Nevertheless, the North Shore copper rush never arrived. The metals were of low quality, located deep in the earth. Technology didn't exist to make it worth the effort.

In 1966, the feds gave 20-year mining leases to a company called INCO, but market uncertainty precluded actual production. The leases changed hands. They expired and were renewed twice for 10-year terms. Companies explored, drilled, and ran tests. Still, mining didn't commence.

It wasn't until Antofagasta purchased the project in 2014 that someone finally advanced a serious plan.

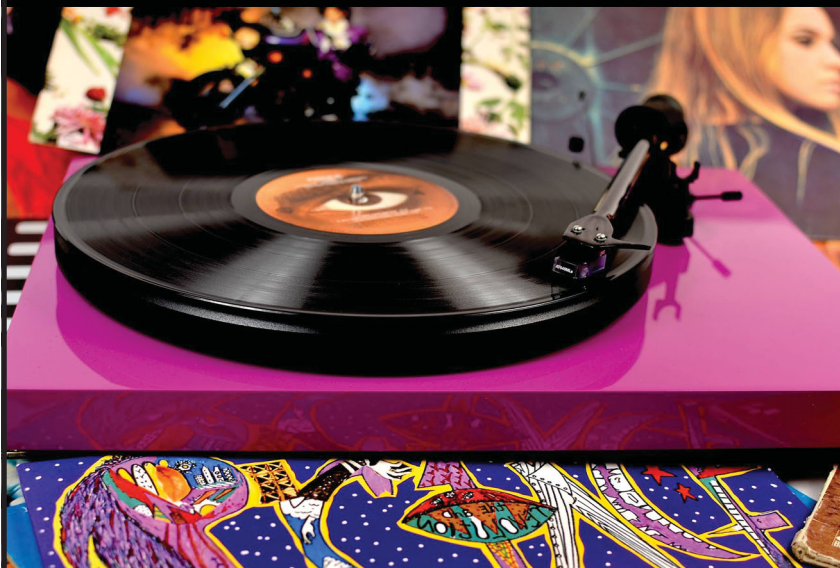
But times had changed. Native rights in ceded lands, which the United States mostly disregarded until the 1970s, were now to be acknowledged. The 1966 leases also predated many of America's environmental laws, including the landmark National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires federal agencies to take a hard look at any decision that could significantly impact the natural world.

Twin Metals had never undergone a fundamental environmental analysis. In order to renew its leases, Antofagasta needed to submit to one.

The Forest Service had to decide whether copper mining made sense in the Boundary Waters' watershed. Numerous studies had already been done on the ramifications of sulfide-ore mining, as well as the fragility of the wilderness.

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RENEE JONES SCHNEIDER

They informed Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell's 2016 judgment, which was an emphatic rejection of Twin Metals.

The Boundary Waters, Tidwell wrote, were a living laboratory and refuge for endangered species. They hold North America's greatest diversity of songbirds, 10,000-year-old Paleoindian cultural sites, and one-fifth of the national forest system's fresh water. Its lakes are so soft and pure that they lack any naturally occurring alkaline minerals, such as calcium, that could counterbalance acidic mine seepage.

Tidwell found the inherent risks of "serious and irreplaceable harm" to be "unacceptable."

At the same time, the U.S. Department of Agriculture considered withdrawing 234,000 acres of Superior National Forest land from mining for 20 years. It launched a two-year environmental review under NEPA. The agency also solicited public feedback, gathering more than 80,000 comments—98 percent of which supported the moratorium.

Twin Metals sued, claiming the U.S. had no right to refuse. Despite its own 2014 technical report stating that federal agencies could practice "discretion" based on environmental law, the company insisted it was entitled to automatic renewal of its leases.

Then-solicitor of the Department of the Interior, Hilary Tompkins, disagreed, pointing out that the opportunity to renew was predicated on mining actually taking place. Since lease holders didn't live up to their part of the bargain for over 50 years, it made no sense for the United States to enter into another contract.

Then Donald Trump assumed office. Anticipating that the Forest Service's ongoing study may soon come under threat, St. Paul Congresswoman Betty McCollum exacted a promise from new Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue to protect it.

Core samples taken from the Twin Metals site show trace amounts of copper and nickel disseminated throughout the host rock.

"I'm not smart enough to know what to do without the facts base and the sound science and we are absolutely allowing that to proceed," Perdue told a congressional committee. "No decision will be made prior to the conclusion of that [study]."

Yet Perdue canceled the study last fall—when it was 80 percent complete. A short news release declared, "The analysis did not reveal new scientific information." Mining exploration would be allowed to continue.

McCollum protested, arguing that the absence of new information should not have overturned previous findings that copper mining was too dangerous for the Boundary Waters. The Trump administration refused to elaborate.

#### FEW JOBS VERSUS MANY JOBS

**T**win Metals' appeal to northeastern Minnesota is one of regional pride, steeped in longing for bygone prosperity.

According to the company, copper mining is but an evolution of the Iron Range's 130-year taconite heritage, which reached its peak in the 1940s as Minnesota miners extracted the iron ore needed to meet wartime demand for steel. Those were the days when mining companies worked shoulder-to-shoulder with civic leaders to equip resilient communities with schools, hospitals, and parks.

Wielding the finest modern technology, Twin Metals could both revitalize the economy and protect the ecosystem, the company claims. Producing copper in

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FRIENDS OF THE BOUNDARY WATERS WILDERNESS

the United States, with its rigorous protections, is a moral alternative to relying on developing countries, which have no problem razing rainforests that stand in the way of minerals.

Many peer-reviewed studies contradict the company line.

Harvard Professor James Stock investigated Twin Metals' claims last year. He found a striking imbalance between the few, temporary jobs produced by mining and the many, enduring jobs in outdoor recreation.

Erring on the conservative side, Stock says he omitted many variables unfavorable to Twin Metals, such as the impact of potential spills on cabin owners' property values, the price of clean water, and the rise of automation in underground mines.

Still, he concluded that the extractive nature of copper mining, with its inevitable boom-bust cycles, would leave the region economically worse off in the end. Especially since there's no guarantee mining jobs would be reserved for locals.

Nor have copper mines seen any major technological advancements within the last 20 years, says Dr. David Chambers, a geophysicist with the Center for Science in Public Participation.

Twin Metals plans to extract copper ores, grind them down to the consistency of beach sand, and separate the metal using a water-intensive chemical process. The slurry left behind will be disposed of in part by mixing it with acid-neutralizing cement, then using it to backfill tunnels blasted underground. The rest would be pumped through a pipeline to a permanent reservoir with a liner.

These are standard practices, in no way foolproof, Chambers says. All liners eventually leak through their welded seams, and are susceptible to puncture by rocks and heavy machinery. Sulfides also eat through cement.

Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness photographed and tested acid mine drainage near Spruce Road, where an old bulk testing site is located. Twin Metals intends to mine in the vicinity.

Twin Metals' desire to build an upstream dam for its waste basin is particularly worrisome, Chambers says. This is the cheapest but least secure type of construction, responsible for two Brazilian mine disasters within the past five years, as well as the 2014 Mount Polley breach, which dumped billions of gallons of toxic waste into an immaculate Canadian lake.

In 2012, Earthworks researcher Bonnie Gestring reviewed self-reported accidents from all American copper mines that had operated for more than five years. She found 14 out of 14 had leaked—many of them repeatedly—due to power outages, ruptured pipes, valve failures, and collapsed dams. The aftermath: decimated migratory bird sanctuaries in Utah, contaminated drinking wells in Arizona, and the complete loss of aquatic life in stretches of the Colorado River.

Tellingly, Wisconsin passed a "Prove It First" law in 1998, requiring mining companies to find a single example of a sulfide project that didn't leak as a condition of permitting. Twenty years later, the legislature under former Gov. Scott Walker repealed it after none could pass the bar.

Flushing even small amounts of mine waste into the Boundary Waters could quickly acidify the ecosystem and potentially wipe out walleye, bass, trout, and northern pike. Releasing sulfates would also kill wild rice and feed algal growth, muddying lakes so clear that people now drink from them without filtration.

Twin Metals asserts that preliminary tests show its waste would be non-acid-generating, but declined to offer any proof.

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WILDNERDPIX

Dr. Eric Morrison, a chemist who works for Water Legacy, calls the company's claim "absurd."

A long-closed iron mine once drilled in the immediate vicinity of Twin Metals' site while looking for taconite. The remains of that mine continue to discharge sulfate in concentrations 100 times greater than the state safety standards, according to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

This demonstrates that area deposits carry a lot of sulfur, Morrison says. By intentionally targeting sulfide-ores, Twin Metals' footprint could be far greater.

Twin Metals also enters an Iron Range much changed from its heyday, when unions negotiated for company towns replete with social benefits to keep the locals happy.

Corporations don't talk about "social license" the same way anymore, says Macalester College Professor Roopali Phadke. Modern mines focus on promoting their job opportunities rather than all-around community service. Today, as communities grow closer and resources shrink, the impact of mining extends far beyond the borders of a single town.

And while proponents argue that extracting minerals in America pulls incentive for deforestation and forced labor in less developed countries, Phadke disagrees. There's no simple trade-off, she says.

Phadke says it's more efficient to recycle metals than process them from scratch, saving water, energy and landfill space. The European Union leads the world in recycling copper.

Donald Trump was president-elect at the time. The Wall Street Journal reported that even before Luksic obtained the necessary landlord license to collect rent, the mansion was leased to Trump's daughter Ivanka and son-in-law Jared Kushner.

This revelation motivated independent researcher Louis V. Galdieri, who had been studying the proliferation of sulfide mining around Lake Superior, to wonder how much influence Antofagasta wielded behind the scenes. He began filing Freedom of Information Act requests for federal officials' emails and schedules.

They revealed that Twin Metals was already a priority for the new Department of the Interior less than three weeks after Trump assumed office. In April 2017, Luksic met with the American ambassador to Chile. The following month, he and his entourage were received in Washington, after which the White House "expressed interest" in the mine.

Throughout that year, Antofagasta and its lobbyists at WilmerHale spent extensive time calling and meeting with Interior officials. In contrast, conservation groups appeared in the department's schedule twice.

One internal email from Kathleen Benedetto, special assistant to the secretary of Interior, distilled their concerns down to a sentence—"The people opposed to the project believe the underground mining operation will contaminate the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness area."

The following December, Interior issued a legal opinion relinquishing the United States' own authority to choose whether Antofagasta should have access to federal land.

This timeline paints the picture of a political about-face, Galdieri says. "They made a decision that they would not respect science. Instead, they would meet with industry and ask industry what it wanted to do."

### THE PRICE OF WILD WATER

**A**ndronico Luksic, Antofagasta's billionaire owner, purchased a \$5.5 million mansion in Washington D.C.'s upscale Kalorama neighborhood in December 2016.



Congressmember Betty McCollum has repeatedly asked the departments of the Interior and Agriculture to produce the science that informed their decision, and release the previous administration's ill-fated comprehensive review.

"The abrupt cancellation implies that the mounting evidence against mining that emerged did not support your position, and so you instead chose to waste taxpayer funds, ignore public comments, and suppress scientific information rather than have this evidence revealed to the public," she wrote in March.

The administration hasn't complied.

McCollum is part of a roster of state officials who have promoted every mining proposal to come Minnesota's way—with the sole exception of Twin Metals. It includes U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, former Gov. Mark Dayton, who denied the project access to state lands, and current Gov. Tim Walz.

This year, both commissioners of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Department of Natural Resources retired from government service and joined conservation groups. Each has implied that state regulators lack the authority to account for the cumulative effects of sulfide mining on water, life, and the intrinsic value of the wilderness law "Leave No Trace."

The state environmental review doesn't ask those big-picture questions. It makes no economic comparisons. It cares only whether a project can claim to meet state standards, which mean little in the context of the Boundary Waters. For example, Minnesota rules limit sulfate in wild rice waters to 10 milligrams per liter, but because the Boundary Waters are so pristine, even meeting that regulation would mean unprecedented degradation.

Minnesota also requires mining companies to make financial assurances for closure and cleanup once resources are exhausted. New mines must set up trust funds in case of accidental spills. Compared to many other states where companies simply abandon mines when they're through, having a law like that is exceptional.

Yet no amount of money could repair the deep stretches of the Rainy River watershed, says Tom Landwehr, a former DNR commissioner who recently joined the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters as its executive director.

Sulfates dissolve in water. They can't be vacuumed out like an oil slick on the Mississippi River. An accident would come with incalculable cost.

"If the federal government doesn't take that first step and say, 'Should we be mining here at all,' the state doesn't get into that," Landwehr says. "State standards are not intended to protect the wilderness. State standards all anticipate that there will be some change in the water quality, air quality, noise, and all those things are accepted."

Last winter, the Department of the Interior released a brief "environmental assessment" on Twin Metals. But since it had already made a non-negotiable decision to renew the mine's leases, the purpose was to merely offer additional stipulations. Twin Metals would now have to abide by environmental laws passed since the 1970s, and permit tribal researchers to conduct archeological surveys.

This assessment did not mention the sulfur content of the local geology or acid's impact on wildlife, except to say that these things worried some members of the public. It cited only one scientific study—a paper compiled by Golder Associates, a company that works for Twin Metals.

Nearly 100,000 Americans submitted responses over a monthlong public comment period. They are currently under review. Regardless, the Department of the Interior is expected to formally renew Twin Metal's leases this summer.

So nine small businesses and five conservation organizations are suing to intervene, a tactic proven effective due to the Trump administration's penchant for ignoring federal rules. According to New York University, the president has lost 95 percent of the cases in which he's been challenged with violating federal procedure.

That Minnesotans should have so little say is also unique. In other parts of the country, federal agencies have protected lands due to public pushback and unfavorable science. Not long ago, the Forest Service rejected oil and gas drilling in Nevada's Ruby Mountains after that project received thousands of comments.

"Receiving so many comments shows how engaged the public is with this project," according to a Forest Service statement. "Their involvement is critical in getting a firm understanding of what concerns our communities have, what they value, and how our work and decisions can best serve their needs."

Last fall, then-Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke issued a 20-year mining moratorium for "Paradise Valley," more than 30,000 acres of land in his home state of Montana. Known as a gateway to Yellowstone National Park, it was considered too precious to mine.

"Access to public lands and water has allowed the Paradise Valley to build a world-class hunting, fishing, tourism, and recreation economy," Zinke announced, nearly parroting the movement to preserve the Boundary Waters.

"I fully support multiple use of public lands, but multiple use is about balance and knowing that not all areas are right for all uses. There are places where it is appropriate to mine and places where it is not."

Twin Metals intends to submit its formal plan and begin its quest for state permits later this year. **CP**


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BY STACY BROOKS

**T**he tantalizing images in Vegan East's Instagram feed look like typical treats—you've got cupcakes topped with swirls of frosting, cinnamon rolls dripping with icing, towering wedges of cake.

The thing is, they're all made without butter, eggs, or milk.

Vegan East's success—since 2016, they've expanded from a home kitchen to two storefronts—is part of the Twin Cities' expanding selection of plant-based baked goods.

"We love seeing all these other small companies pop up," says owner Reid Nelson. "It's good for us, good for the environment, and good for the animals."

For Dulce Monterrubio, owner of Dulceria Bakery, adding vegan options to her selection of pan dulce (Mexican pastries) started as a way to support her customers and celebrate her heritage. "I realized a number of Mexican pastries and desserts are traditionally vegan," she says. Alegrias, for example, are made with amaranth seed, dark chocolate, and fresh raspberries.

While some recipes easily lend themselves to vegan baking, others are trickier. Nelson cites the difficulty of sourcing specialty ingredients—it's not an issue for home bakers, but it can be a problem at the production scale.

However, the biggest challenge is the perception that vegan foods won't taste as good as their animal-based counterparts, something Nelson sees as an opportunity. "Once they try it, they're like, 'Oh, it's great,'" he says.

"I just want to have a really good bakery, and it happens to be vegan," says Calina Hope Damiani, owner of Hope's Vegan Kitchen.

"We've gotten rave reviews from vegans and non-vegans alike," adds Monterrubio. "Lots of Latinx vegans who haven't been able to find pan dulce in the Twin Cities and are finally able to eat conchita, they say, 'It's been years, and it's just like I remember it from before I became vegan.'"

"That gets to our heart," she says.

Here's where to go when you're looking for vegan baked goods in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

## TOTALLY VEGAN BAKERIES

### Eureka Compass Vegan Food

This vegan bodega offers an ever-changing lineup of baked goods, including cookies, scones, croissants (both plain and stuffed with sweet or savory fillings), muffins, and



ALMA GUZMAN

# PLANT-BAKED

Where to find the best vegan baked goods in the Twin Cities

pop tarts. Check Facebook or Instagram for the current selection and for special offers. 629 Aldine St., St. Paul; 651-600-0419; [eurekacompassveganfood.com](http://eurekacompassveganfood.com)

### Vegan East

A vegan bakery stocked with cinnamon rolls, cake, cheesecake, brownies, pop tarts, and cupcakes, Vegan East also lets you join its "Day Old Club" for a chance to score some freebies. Enroll for a \$5 minimum monthly donation to a local animal sanctuary and you'll be entered in drawings for day-old cakes. 2409 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis and 2179 Fourth St., White Bear Lake; 612-213-3020 and 651-653-3822; [veganeast.com](http://veganeast.com)

## VEGAN POP-UPS

### Hope's Vegan Kitchen

Stop by the Linden Hills Farmers Market for croissants, cookies, bars, cinnamon rolls, and cheesecakes—the croissants are a crowd favorite and the s'mores bars are especially delicious. Treats are also available by online order for pickup in Plymouth or delivery to the Minneapolis area. [hopesveganbakery.com](http://hopesveganbakery.com)

### Prairie Vegan Pies

Based in Morris, Minnesota, Prairie Vegan Pies are available in the Twin Cities via a monthly pop-up at the Herbivorous Butcher

(and occasionally other places), with pre-orders available by email. Pick from full-sized and small pies in flavors including chocolate peanut butter, Key lime, and a veggie pot pie with Herbivorous Butcher chicken. A few full-sized pies can be made gluten-free. [facebook.com/prairieveganpies](http://facebook.com/prairieveganpies)

### Totally Baked Donuts

Gluten-free and vegan, Totally Baked Donuts are available at pop-ups and by custom order, with free pickup in south Minneapolis or delivery for a fee. Pick from sweet flavors like oatmeal chocolate chip and coconut, or try a savory doughnut topped with jalapeño cheese. [totallybakeddonuts.com](http://totallybakeddonuts.com)

## BAKERIES WITH IMPRESSIVE VEGAN OPTIONS

### Amy's Cupcake Shoppe

There are typically four to six vegan flavors available in-store, with the selection changing weekly. Check Facebook for the current flavors, which range from classic red velvet to inventive seasonal options like dreamsicle. 701 Mainstreet, Hopkins and 10 Southdale Center #1705, Edina; 952-479-7516 and 952-920-0302; [amyscupcakeshoppe.com](http://amyscupcakeshoppe.com)

### Angel Food Bakery

Vegan banana chocolate chip scones are available daily, and several days a week, so

are vegan cookies. Plant-based doughnuts are currently offered Thursday through Saturday. To guarantee the best selection, show up early or call ahead to have some goodies set aside. 86 S. Sixth St., Minneapolis; 612-238-1435; [angelfoodmn.com](http://angelfoodmn.com)

### Dulceria Bakery

The Mexican bakery has an ever-expanding menu of plant-based pastries. Sweet and savory empanadas, Mexican wedding cookies, and conchas are available daily; on "Vegan Viernes" (Vegan Friday), stop by for a wider selection, including panquecitos, moist bundt cakes in seasonal flavors like orange with horchata glaze. 1839 E. 42nd St., Minneapolis; 612-886-1180; [dulceriabakery.com](http://dulceriabakery.com)

### French Meadow Bakery & Cafe

The bakery case offers several plant-based options, including cakes, bars, and a seasonal fruit crisp. The berry cream tart is particularly dreamy: blueberry and raspberry cream in a rich chocolate and almond crust, topped with a picture-perfect cluster of fresh berries. 2610 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis and 1662 Grand Ave., St. Paul; 612-870-7855 and 651-789-8870; [frenchmeadowcafe.com](http://frenchmeadowcafe.com)

### Glam Doll Donuts

Glam Doll offers several vegan cake, raised, and filled doughnuts daily. The cheekily named pastries include the Femme Fatale (vanilla icing with a raspberry curd filling), the Misfit (orange, ginger, and cinnamon-infused glaze), and the sprinkle-heavy Chocolate Starlet. 2605 Nicollet Ave. S. and 519 Central Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 612-345-7064 and 612-223-8071; [glamdollonuts.com](http://glamdollonuts.com)

### Muddy Paws Cheesecake

A rotating flavor of vegan cheesecake is offered by the slice, typically strawberry, raspberry chocolate truffle, or Oreo. Additional flavors are available by the whole cheesecake for special order, including espresso, pumpkin, and peanut butter. 3359 Gorham Ave., St. Louis Park; 763-545-7161; [muddypawscheesecake.com](http://muddypawscheesecake.com)

### Sift Gluten Free

Sift serves up a handful of vegan items daily, including chocolate doughnuts, cinnamon rolls, and scotcheroos; in addition, breads are vegan. Since it's a first-come, first-served situation, plant-based eaters would do well to show up early, especially on weekends. 4557 Bloomington Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-503-5300; [siftglutenfree.com](http://siftglutenfree.com)



**FRIDAY** TU Dance celebrates 15 years p. 17

**SATURDAY** Cinco de Mayo in St. Paul p. 17

**SUNDAY** MayDay turns 45 p. 20

## WEDNESDAY 5.1

### COMEDY

#### CRAIG ROBINSON

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Craig Robinson is probably best known for his roles in the TV series *The Office*, on which he played warehouse worker Darryl Philbin, and *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*. He has also appeared in films such as *Pineapple Express* and *Hot Tub Time Machine*. However, Robinson is also a talented standup comedian. Onstage, he is known for his low-key demeanor and the funny stories he tells about his life experiences. "I'm a very romantic person," he tells an audience. "I love to be in love when I can, and I believe that there is someone out there for everybody. But the more I date, the more I realize that my person died at birth or something." A former elementary school music teacher, he often sits at a keyboard and accompanies many of his jokes and tales with music. His easy-going, often deadpan delivery isn't far removed from that of the characters he's played. 18+. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. \$30. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday** —P.F. WILSON

## THURSDAY 5.2

### FILM

#### THE COEN BROTHERS: THE MEN WHO WEREN'T THERE

TRYLON CINEMA/HEIGHTS THEATER

The genre-upending films of St. Louis Park natives Ethan and Joel Coen tend to feature deeply flawed figures instigating ill-conceived plans destined to unravel in disastrous fashion. This common link runs through The Coen Brothers: *The Men Who Weren't There*, the latest retrospective co-hosted by the Heights Theater and Trylon Cinema. The Heights lineup includes *Fargo* (1996), a Minnesota-set tale of criminal mishaps; *Raising Arizona* (1987), the most uproarious depiction of baby abduction ever filmed; *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (2000), in which three prison escapees are beset by troubles

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AMINA HARPER

while searching for a stashed fortune; *The Big Lebowski* (1998), a stoner spoof of hardboiled detective yarns; and *No Country for Old Men* (2007), which traces the horrific path of a psychotic hitman. The Trylon offers *The Man Who Wasn't There* (2001), a simmering tale of escalating crimes; *The Hudsucker Proxy* (1994), a screwball skewering of corporate malfeasance; *Barton Fink* (1991), a taut study of an unraveling screenwriter; *Miller's Crossing* (1990), a crime thriller entangling feuding

gangsters; *Blood Simple* (1984), a tale of betrayal and violence; and *A Serious Man* (2009), a profile of a professor who's devastated by an endless series of misfortunes. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at Heights; 7 and 9:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, plus 3 and 5:30 p.m. Sundays at Trylon. \$8-\$10. Trylon Cinema, 2820 E. 33rd St., Minneapolis; 612-424-5468. Heights Theater, 3951 Central Ave. NE, Columbia Heights; 763-789-4992. **Through June 2** —BRAD RICHASON

### DANCE/FESTIVAL

#### CANDY BOX DANCE FESTIVAL 2019

THE SOUTHERN THEATER

Choreographer Mathew Janczewski gets that it takes a village to nurture a dance community. His Candy Box Dance Festival, now in its third season, showcases artists through a variety of performances and workshops. This year's featured talents cover a range of impulses and aesthetics. Chris Schlichting offers structuralism and sensuality in his efforts. April Sellers' "Patriot Erector" deconstructs acts of nationalism, from marching in the streets to singing the national anthem, exploring both celebration and protest. Darrius Strong of STRONGmovement contributes two hip-hop works, "Authentic Minds" and "Numb," as he focuses on unique voices, personal friendships, and community. Happy Hour offerings include sessions with Janczewski's company ARENA, Brenna Mosser Dance Works, Blake Nellis, Non Edwards, and Taja Wills. All in all, this festival offers exhilarating dance with some of the area's most provocative artists. Check southerntheater.org for Happy Hour and workshop schedules. Featured artist shows are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 2 p.m. Saturday. \$20; many performances are sliding scale. 1420 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis; 612-326-1811.

**Through May 4** —LINDA SHAPIRO

### COMEDY

#### PAUL MECURIO

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Comedian Paul Mecurio always has an interesting project or two going. Lately, he's found success on Broadway with his one-man show, *Permission to Speak*. "I bring audience members onstage and have them tell stories from their lives," he explains. "I also tell stories about my life. It's all about understanding and connecting—but not in a sappy way." Each show is different, of course. In one, Mecurio spoke to 70-year-old newlyweds who had met on an S&M website. "They



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DANIEL CORRIGAN

were the cutest couple,” he insists. “They seriously looked like anyone’s grandma and grandpa.” In addition to the one-man show, Mecurio still works on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* and continues to log appearances on multiple cable news shows commenting on current events. On the standup stage, he’s talking about how indifferent people have become toward each other. “Everyone thinks their opinion matters all the time, and I think that’s because of social media,” he says. “People think they can say whatever they want and put it out there and that it matters, but it doesn’t. People don’t always give a shit.” 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday. \$16-\$23. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558.

**Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

## FRIDAY 5.3

### DANCE

#### TU DANCE

O'SHAUGHNESSY AUDITORIUM

In the 15 years since Toni Pierce-Sands and Uri Sands launched TU Dance at the University of Minnesota—initially with a longer, more complicated name—the company has nurtured dancers who have moved on to further greatness; brought an aesthetic of grace, humility, and exceptional technique to the Twin Cities; opened a renowned school; performed nationally with Bon Iver; and transformed our expectations of dance, its power, and possibility. This anniversary concert includes works by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar (“Walking with Pearl... Africa Diaries,” a tribute to dance anthropologist Pearl Primus) and Ron K. Brown (“Where the Light Shines Through,” a story of solidarity and perseverance). Enough said. Just go. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$24-\$34. 2004 Randolph

Ave., St. Paul; 651-690-6700. **Through Sunday —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

### ART/BENEFIT

#### I AM KINDNESS GALLERY SHOW

CANOPY BY HILTON MINNEAPOLIS MILL DISTRICT

This sweet art party invites revelers to purchase art not with money, but with acts of generosity. Each year, event organizer Sarah Edwards and crew round up a fabulous group of artists who are willing to give their art to patrons if they complete the task of their choosing. An artist could ask a client to spend time at an animal shelter, or invite them to volunteer at a food shelf, or to help a nonprofit organization for the afternoon. Participating artists include Alec Soth, Kate Iverson, Terrence Payne, Amina Harper, Shelly Mosman, and many others. The celebration will feature cocktails from Prairie Organic Spirits and Douglas & Todd Bourbon, gifts from local businesses, live music from the Mississippi Hot Club, and free valet parking. I Am Kindness also serves as an opening party for Canopy, so you can use this as an opportunity to check out the new space. Adam Levy and his band, Sunshine Committee, will kept the party going afterward. Visit [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) to reserve a spot on the guestlist. 6 to 9 p.m. Free; RSVP requested. 708 Third St. S., Minneapolis; 612-332-0696. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

## SATURDAY 5.4

### ART/MUSEUM

#### FIRST AVENUE: STORIES OF MINNESOTA'S MAINROOM

MINNESOTA HISTORY CENTER

As First Avenue prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2020, festivities are beginning to ramp up throughout the Twin Cities to pay homage to Minnesota's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18 ►

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## A-LIST



Cinco de Mayo offers lots of family fun.

SHARI L. GROSS

### CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ►

greatest music venue. The Minnesota History Center is celebrating all things First Ave with a sprawling new exhibit, “First Avenue: Stories of Minnesota’s Mainroom,” showcasing the music, musicians, and legendary moments that have made the club an internationally recognized landmark. Drawing inspiration from Chris Riemenschneider’s recent book, *First Avenue: Minnesota’s Mainroom*, the collection will include images, artifacts, staff stories, fan experiences, hands-on interactive displays, and a striking recreation of First Ave’s iconic star-filled walls. The opening reception on Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. will feature DJ sets from local luminaries, such as Lazerbeak, the Current’s Andrea Swensson, and Transmission’s Jake Rudh, as well as live music from Faith Boblett and Prairie Fire Lady Choir. There will also be book signings from MNHS Press authors and art activities where you can make your own First Avenue star and buttons. Included with museum admission. 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul; 651-259-3000. **Through March 29 —ERIK THOMPSON**

### BARHOPPING/PARTY

#### MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU

DAINGEROUS MAN BREWING CO.

The big holiday this weekend is Cinco de Mayo. But if you’re a *Star Wars* fan, you might also be celebrating May the 4th Be with You. This Saturday, Dangerous Man will turn into a galactic cantina, welcoming Jedi, sith lords, hutt, and more for fun. The party kicks off as many Jedi evenings do: with a lightsaber battle led by Saber Legion. Costumes are encouraged, and could score you a prize, as will correct answers during the

trivia session. As for the menu, you’ll see many treats, including Tatooine Sunset Beer and Blue Milk (also a beer) on tap. DJ Jake Rudh will spin tunes to get the dance floor moving, and flash tattoos, a photobooth, food trucks, and T-shirt printing round out the night. Find tickets on [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com). 7 p.m. to midnight. \$20; \$30 scores you two limited-edition glasses. 1300 Second St. NE, Minneapolis. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

### FESTIVAL

#### CINCO DE MAYO

CESAR CHAVEZ STREET

This Saturday, St. Paul celebrates Cinco de Mayo with all-day festivities. Things begin with a parade featuring a sea of colorful costumes and floats as they make their way along Cesar Chavez Street from Wabasha to Aida. Afterward, stroll through the area to discover food trucks, performance stages, and wares from small businesses. There will be areas boasting history exhibits, health screenings, and family activities. The Car, Truck, and Bike Show is ever-popular, and offers the type of tricked-out vehicles that look like they belong on *Pimp My Ride*. Categories include lowriders, mini-trucks, and unique wheels. Find more info at [www.cincodemayosaintpaul.com](http://www.cincodemayosaintpaul.com). 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Cesar Chavez Street, from Wabasha to Anita, St. Paul. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

### BARHOPPING/PARTY

#### KENTUCKY DERBATANTE 2019

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 20 ►




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MAY 01 & 02



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MAY 03



**THE LEMONHEADS**  
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\$25 | 7PM DOORS | 18+

MAY 11

## FIRST AVENUE MAINROOM



**SUPERORGANISM**  
WITH SIMPSON

MAY 02



**MANIC FOCUS**  
WITH RUSS LIQUID

MAY 03



**DIRTY HEADS**  
WITH THE HIP ABDUCTION

MAY 07



**AN EVENING WITH BUCKETHEAD**

MAY 09



**THE DANDY WARHOLS**  
WITH COSMONAUTS,  
DJ JAKE RUDH

MAY 12



**JIM JAMES**  
WITH AMO AMO

MAY 14



**BETTY WHO**  
WITH ROZZI

MAY 15



**FRED ARMISEN**  
WITH MARY LYNN RAJSKUB

MAY 16



**THE MOUNTAIN GOATS**  
WITH SHANA CLEVELAND

MAY 17



**AN EVENING WITH CHARLIE PARR AND PHIL COOK**

MAY 18

## PALACE THEATRE



**PASSION PIT**  
MANNERS 10TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR  
WITH THE BEACHES

MAY 14



**SNARKY PUPPY**  
WITH ALINA ENGIBARYAN

MAY 25



**GOGOL BORDELLO**

MAY 31



**LAKE STREET DIVE**  
WITH NICOLE ATKINS

JUNE 28 & 29



**THE STRUTS**  
WITH THE GLORIOUS SONS

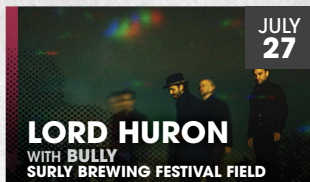
JULY 13

## UPCOMING OUTDOOR SHOWS



**TRAMPLED BY TURTLES**  
WITH ERIK KOSKINEN, GAELYNN LEA, EARLY EYES, AND MORE  
BAYFRONT FESTIVAL PARK (DULUTH)

JULY 06



**LORD HURON**  
WITH BULLY  
SURLY BREWING FESTIVAL FIELD

JULY 27



**TAME IMPALA**  
SURLY BREWING FESTIVAL FIELD  
7/30 SHOW SOLD OUT!

JULY 31



**GARY CLARK JR.**  
SURLY BREWING FESTIVAL FIELD

AUG 09



**BEN FOLDS AND VIOLENT FEMMES**  
SURLY BREWING FESTIVAL FIELD

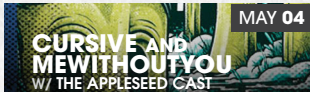
AUG 14

## FINE LINE



**THE JAPANESE HOUSE**  
W/ ART SCHOOL GIRLFRIEND

MAY 01



**CURSIVE AND MEWITHOUTYOU**  
W/ THE APPLESEED CAST

MAY 04



**JAKE MILLER**  
W/ LOGAN HENDERSON,  
JUST SECONDS APART

MAY 07



**DEER TICK**  
W/ COURTNEY MARIE ANDREWS

MAY 08



**ADELITAS WAY**  
W/ BLACKLITE DISTRICT,  
AMERICAN SIN, ZFG

MAY 09



**LADY LARK**  
ALBUM RELEASE  
W/ HEIRUSPECS, PURPLE FUNK METROPOLIS

MAY 10

## 7TH ST ENTRY



**DELICATE STEVE**  
W/ THE MUCKERS

MAY 01



**TRISTEN**  
W/ MEG KIRSCH

MAY 05




**BRIDGE CITY SINNERS**  
W/ TEJON STREET CORNER THIEVES,  
THE VON TRAMPS

MAY 02



**NICK WATERHOUSE**  
W/ THE MATSON 2

MAY 06



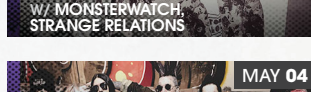
**SKATING POLLY**  
W/ MONSTERWATCH,  
STRANGE RELATIONS

MAY 03



**ACTUAL WOLF AND MATTHEW MCNEAL**  
W/ dVRG & PATRICK PEGG

MAY 08



**BLUE FELIX**  
W/ BY THE THOUSANDS

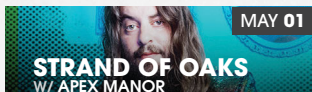
MAY 04



**WARREN THOMAS FENZI, AL CHURCH, AND POOLBOY**


MAY 10

## TURF CLUB



**STRAND OF OAKS**  
W/ APEX MANOR

MAY 01



**ZOO ANIMAL AND AARON RICE**  
DOUBLE RELEASE SHOW  
W/ BOOKHOUSE TRIO, KANSAS PLATES

MAY 02



**BLACK MAGIC FLOWER POWER**  
W/ RIFFLORD, ZIG ZAG WANDERER, GALLIVANT

MAY 03



**BLUE WATER HIGHWAY**

MAY 04



**BRUNO MAJOR**


MAY 05



**ICEAGE**  
W/ NADAH EL SHAZLY

MAY 06

## AROUND TOWN



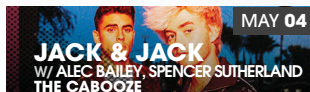
**KNIFE KNIGHTS**  
W/ LANDO CHILL, GREG GREASE  
icehouse MPLS

MAY 02



**BOBCAT GOLDTHWAIT & DANA GOULD**  
THE CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER

MAY 04



**JACK & JACK**  
W/ ALEC BAILEY, SPENCER SUTHERLAND  
THE CABOOZE

MAY 04



**MATTHEW LOGAN VASQUEZ**  
W/ FRANCES CONE, PR NEWMAN  
icehouse MPLS

MAY 09



**TACOMA FD'S HEFFERNAN AND LEMME LIVE**  
THE CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER

MAY 12





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## A-LIST

### SATURDAY

#### BARHOPPING THE TWIN CITIES BLOODY MARY FESTIVAL

UNION DEPOT

No weekend morning is complete without a bloody Mary. This Saturday, you can kick it up a notch by sampling as many bloodies as you wish during the Bloody Mary Festival. Over a dozen bars will share their fabulous concoctions, including takes from Pat's

Tap, the Happy Gnome, Can Can Wonderland, Tailgate, and Tongue in Cheek. This isn't a one-trick party, however. Miss Myra and the Moonshiners will provide a swinging soundtrack, and revelers can sample products from T-Rex cookies, Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery, White Claw, Du Nord, and other artisan makers of food and drink. There are two separate sessions: one at 11:15 for the a.m. crowd, and another at 3:45 p.m. for those who prefer to start the party after lunch (VIP admission to each session starts 45 minutes earlier). Find tickets and more info at [www.thebloodymaryfest.com](http://www.thebloodymaryfest.com). 21+. 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. \$45-\$60. 214 E. Fourth St., St. Paul; 651-202-2700. —LOREN GREEN



IMAGE COURTESY EVENT ORGANIZERS

### CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ►

amounts to a two-minute blast of adrenaline, it's also a brief moment shared by all kinds of people around the world. One place to experience that magic is at the Kentucky Derbatante. Now in its fifth year, this party at Betty Danger's continues to bring some southern flair and pomp to Minnesota. An event ticket not only offers a chance to revel in the excitement via live screening, it also scores guests entry into the outrageous hat contest, access to Derby-themed mini-golf and games, and the chance to meet real ponies, who will be hanging out over by the amusement park-themed bar. The Derby may last for only two minutes, but DJ Strangelove will be spinning tunes to keep the party going all day long. Find tickets on [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com). 2:30 to 9:30 p.m. \$29.95/\$34.95 at the door (if available). 2501 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-315-4997. —LOREN GREEN

### OPERA

#### LA TRAVIATA

ORDWAY THEATER

After *La Traviata*'s disastrous opening in 1853, composer Giuseppe Verdi wrote to his friend, conductor Angelo Mariani, about the so-called fiasco: "Am I wrong or they? I myself believe that the last word on *La Traviata* was not heard last night." More than 150 years later, Verdi is still getting the last word. *La Traviata* is an undisputed candidate

for greatest opera of all time. The story of Violetta, an ailing woman who plans to party away the remainder of her days until an encounter with nobleman Alfredo leads her to ponder a different life, is the kind of rich tragedy for which opera was invented. Verdi created the score at the height of his powers; Act One's "Brindisi" (aka "The Drinking Song") remains one of the most revered pieces of music in the Western world. Nicole Cabell and Cecilia Violetta Lopez alternate performances as Violetta, while Jesus Leon and Stephen Martin trade off singing Alfredo in director Louisa Muller's production. Violetta's relatively modern insistence on controlling her own fortune invites evolving interpretations of the character, meaning the last word on *Traviata* may not be written yet for a while—but the verdict is in. 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, Thursdays, plus Tuesday, May 14; 2 p.m. Sundays. \$25-\$200.345 Washington St., St. Paul; 612-333-6669. **Through May 19 —BRYAN MILLER**

### SUNDAY 5.5

### FESTIVAL

#### 45TH MAYDAY PARADE AND FESTIVAL

POWDERHORN PARK

Get ready for a mega-dose of joy, puppets, and community as In the Heart of the Beast hosts its annual MayDay Parade and Festival. With





MayDay celebrates the changing seasons.

© 2016 XAVIER WANG/STAR TRIBUNE

art bikes, giant puppets, stilt dancers, marching bands, costumed characters, flowers, and glitter, this is Minneapolis' quintessential spring celebration. So find a spot on Bloomington Avenue for the parade, make your way to the Tree of Life Ceremony afterward, and stay for a festival filled with peace and love at Powderhorn Park. MayDay is a must-see event, and a chance to revel in beauty, wonder, and social activism. This year, with news of HOBOT's financial struggles, you definitely won't want to miss the party. If you can, be sure to give a donation to ensure this lovely event continues for years to come with help from the community. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free. The parade starts at the corner of 25th Street East and Bloomington Avenue South, travels south on Bloomington to 34th Street East, and ends at Powderhorn Park (3400 15th Ave. S., Minneapolis). —SHEILA REGAN

## TUESDAY 5.7

### FILM

#### DAN SAVAGE'S VERY BEST OF HUMP! FILM FESTIVAL

ST. ANTHONY MAIN THEATRE

For the past 10 years, Dan Savage (of Savage Love fame) has invited people to share their homemade, sex-positive adult films on the big screen. At each installment, the DIY works have flowed in from around the world, featuring people who are proudly letting their freak flags fly, regardless of fetish, gender identity, sexuality, or body

type. For this edition of his traveling film fest, Savage has selected a few of his favorites. Think of this as a greatest-hits collection for kinksters. Showtimes vary; check online for the complete schedule. \$20. 115 Main St. SE, Minneapolis; 612-331-4723.

Through May 9 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

### THEATER

#### THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

ORPHEUM THEATRE

*The Play That Goes Wrong* is an unhinged manifestation of an epic theatrical catastrophe. Originating in London, this farce of a murder mystery won the coveted Olivier Award for Best New Comedy before transferring to Broadway for a popular run. Now Twin Cities audiences hankering for anarchic absurdity need look no further than the Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society, the hilariously inept, entirely fictional troupe staging the equally fictitious *The Murder at Haversham Manor*, a clichéd whodunit incompetently cribbed from the works of Agatha Christie. Even in the midst of merciless spoofing, however, it's clear that the show's creators have a tremendous fondness for the subject matter, applying insightful wit to a production in which murder is the least of the complications. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Saturday; 1 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday. \$29-\$105., 910 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007. Through May 12 —BRAD RICHASON

<b>MAY 8</b> Mark Battles	<b>MAY 2</b> stormbreaker w. Unkle Daddy and more	<b>MAY 11</b> Tribute to David Gilmour
<b>MAY 18</b> Struggle Jennings	<b>MAY 19</b> Caskey "BS4" Tour	<b>MAY 22</b> Exmag
<b>JUN 1</b> Jay Electronica	<b>JUN 8</b> Plaza Show: Steel Panther & Pop Evil	<b>JUN 26</b> Ward Davis

**The Whiskey Junction**  
 5/9 DJ I ROACH  
 5/10 Ragged But Right  
 5/11 Hoodphellas  
 5/15 Almost There!  
 5/16 Bleak Sabbath  
 5/17 The Willie Waldman Project  
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# AVENGED TWENTY-SECONDFOLD

*Avengers: Endgame* delivers a perfect conclusion



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**FRI 5/03** ROOTS, ROCK & DEEP BLUES PRESENTS  
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**& MIKE MUNSON**

**SAT 5/04** Single Vinyl Release Party  
**FLAMIN' OH's**  
**LowRay, & The Shackletons**

**SAT 5/04** ROOTS, ROCK & DEEP BLUES PRESENTS  
**LEFT LANE CRUISER**  
with **SLIM STONE**

**WED 5/08** Greatful Dead's Greatest Show Ever!  
**CORNELL '77 TURNS 42**  
Max Krauth, Demetri Rallis, Chad Whittaker  
Joe Peterson, Annie Frazier, JT Bates, Zach Miller  
with special guest Chris Castino!

5/08 **BECKY KAPELL & FAT 6** #FREEMUSICWEDNESDAYS

**THU 5/09** ROOTS, ROCK & DEEP BLUES PRESENTS  
**REV JAMES LEG**  
**MIKE GUNTHER & TOTAL CRAPSHOOT**  
THE CROOKED SAWS

5/09 **LOS CARDENCHEROS DE SAPIORIZ** (Durango, Mexico)  
+ Screening of "A Morir en los Desiertos"

**FRI 5/10** **MOREL FEAST 2019**  
6 CHEF PREPERATOINS  
HOOK EXTRAS - ELECTRIC FOREST - MUSIC

5/10 **RAY BONNEVILLE - ALBUM RELEASE**

**SAT 5/11** **THE SILVERTEENS + THE BOOT R&B**  
**THE SILENT TREATMENT + HOT PASTRAMI**

5/11 **ALBERT CASTIGLIA "Masterpiece" Album Release**

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BY TONY LIBERA

It wouldn't be hyperbole to say that *Avengers: Endgame* is one of the most highly anticipated films of all time, but that statement doesn't even do it justice. This is a landmark moment in cultural history, the culmination of a 22-picture series that's proven to be unlike anything we've ever seen at the movies. Taken as a whole, the Marvel Cinematic Universe has been a spectacular artistic achievement—and *Endgame* is the perfect conclusion.

At the tail end of the journey, with the influx of superhero flicks since 2008's *Iron Man*, it might be difficult to appreciate just how far we've come. Way back when, Marvel moviegoing meant suffering through *Fantastic Four* (2005), *X-Men: The Last Stand* (2006), and *Spider-Man 3: Emo Boogaloo* (2007). It was a dark time for humanity... and then out of nowhere, Jon Favreau and Robert Downey Jr., of all people, kickstarted one of the world's most beloved action franchises. If you can't remember what the vibe was like going into *Iron Man*, look up some old reviews. Downey's performance and the movie's success were anything but

expected. Those beginnings make this end all the more impressive.

It's atypical, in this day and age, for a blockbuster to maintain such a degree of secrecy going into opening weekend, so I won't even flirt with insider info here. Let's just say that on the most basic, spoiler-free level, *Endgame* shows the heroes who survived Thanos' (Josh Brolin) murderous *Infinity War* snap banding together in search of a means to save the fallen. The movie clocks in at three hours, though it's so engrossing you'll somehow wish it were longer.

Oblique summary out of the way, let's attempt to describe what makes *Avengers: Endgame* so great without revealing anything big. The callbacks are clever without being heavy-handed. The runtime and deliberate pacing allow for a surprising amount of story. And expectations are subverted in the best possible ways.

Given the decimation capping off *Infinity War*, you're probably betting on a pretty solemn outing. However, true to the other movies, *Endgame* strikes a nice balance between humor and intensity. It's by far the darkest of the bunch, but where the final *Harry Potter* felt like total doom and

## AVENGERS: ENDGAME

directed by Anthony Russo and Joe Russo  
area theaters; now showing

gloom, the last *Avengers* has tons of laughs. Downey is clutch as always, but somehow Chris Hemsworth's Thor has become the funniest Avenger.

Beyond yuks, *Endgame*'s got more heart than any other film in the series. In some ways that's an inevitability when you're dealing with a grand finale, but it's more than that here. Multiple character arcs reach completion, and each one feels right on the money. It's the service paid to these beloved heroes that will undoubtedly cement *Endgame*'s legacy. Like most epics, it builds to a climactic battle (and a truly phenomenal one at that). Nevertheless, what stands out as you're leaving the theater isn't a sense of dazzled, eye-popped awe. It's an appreciation for the characters and their stories, a pensiveness caused by a decade-long experience coming to an end. This movie is emotionally exhausting. It's extremely satisfying. And while it's certainly bittersweet, *Avengers: Endgame* serves as a powerful capstone for this phase of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. **A-**



THEATER

# SHUL

A synagogue shrinks in this MJTC premiere



SARAH WHITING

BY JAY GABLER

At one point in *Shul*, a Jewish congregation's young leader, Abe (Avi Aharoni), checks his phone. "I got a text," he says. "So do I!" quips a devout elder (Charles Numrich), hoisting a dusty book.

That groaner gets the play's biggest laugh, and thanks to director Robert Dorfman's laudable control of tone, the gag also feels poignant. The older man, Ezra, doesn't want to reverse technological change. He's simply taking pride in his own identity, and his community's history.

In Sheldon Wolf's play, now in a world-premiere production by the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company, that community is shrinking nearly to the vanishing point.

With visible holes appearing in the synagogue roof, Abe has assembled his congregants to vote on options. Heidi (Dexieng Yang), a real estate agent, has a potential buyer (Jôher Coleman) with a Sikh group ready to move in and, literally, get cooking.

It's a complex challenge, one facing congregations of many faiths as religious participation declines. At its best, *Shul* embraces the tension between its characters' humility—they know the world doesn't revolve around them—and their justifiable pride in a tradition and a place that's shaped their lives. As the play progresses, though, we start to wish we could hear that kind of complex authenticity from voices originating outside the synagogue walls, too.

Dorfman, a hugely accomplished actor making his overdue directorial debut, has

## SHUL

Highland Park Community Center  
1978 Ford Pkwy., St. Paul  
651-647-4315; through May 19

assembled a powerful ensemble cast; there could hardly be a better group of actors to portray this congregation. Among the artists are Guthrie stars like Nathaniel Fuller, whose character descended from a congregation founder but whose relationship with his family is troubled. Raye Birk and Nancy Marvy play a wry pair of stalwarts, clear-eyed but fighting to stay the course. They're counterposed with the more whimsical Friedman, a role in which Paul Schoenack channels a classic sad-clown gravity.

We feel we know these people and this place, a vital institution facing its twilight. Unfortunately, Wolf isn't as sympathetic when it comes to the synagogue's visitors.

The Sikh buyer comes and goes without making much of an impact beyond some respectfully proffered exposition. Given the congregants' attitude toward his faith—ignorance bordering, in some cases, on intolerance—the character feels like a missed opportunity. Real estate agent Heidi fares even worse, written as shrill and shallow. Her past romance with Abe is played for elbow-dig-yuks; Heidi's view of Abe's religious awakening is far less rosy than his own, and we never learn enough about why.

*Shul* is a warm portrait of a challenged community of faith, but the playwright's frame could use some expansion. **C+**

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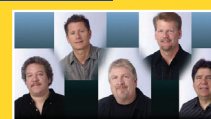
**FRI, MAY 3**



**AUTRALIA'S**  
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**SAT, MAY 11**



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# SKYWAY THEATRE

## UPCOMING SHOWS

<b>MAY 03</b> <b>VINCENT</b> W/ HEX COUGAR & JARON 	<b>MAY 03</b> <b>TREVOR DANIEL</b> W/ NOAH NORTH & 916FROSTY 	<b>MAY 04</b> <b>ADVENTURE CLUB</b> W/ MIDNIGHT T, TYNNAN & MORE 	<b>MAY 05</b> <b>BOBAFLEX</b> W/ DARK SKY CHOIR 
<b>MAY 09</b> <b>HYPHEE</b> W/ LOCAL SUPPORT 	<b>MAY 10</b> <b>PERTURBATOR</b> W/ GOST 	<b>MAY 10</b> <b>CLOZEE</b> W/ THRIFTWORKS, AXEL THESLEFF & MORE 	<b>MAY 11</b> <b>DION TIMMER X DUBLOADZ</b> W/ KOMPANY 
<b>MAY 12</b> <b>HATEBREED</b> W/ OBITUARY & MADBALL 	<b>MAY 15</b> <b>ANIMALS AS LEADERS</b> W/ THE CONTORTIONIST 	<b>MAY 16</b> <b>PARTYWAVE</b> & PUSHLOOP 	<b>MAY 17</b> <b>ESHAM</b> W/ JIMMY JAMES & ILL PHIL 
<b>MAY 17</b> <b>YELLOW CLAW</b> W/ BLUNTS & BLONDES 	<b>MAY 18</b> <b>FKJ</b> 2019 TOUR 	<b>MAY 23</b> <b>DRIPPY &amp; CROWELL</b> STAY WET TOUR 	<b>MAY 24</b> <b>VAVO</b> W/ LOCAL SUPPORT 
<b>MAY 25</b> <b>PHASEONE</b> W/ SLIMEZ 	<b>MAY 26</b> <b>MIKRODOT</b> & CHIEF KAYA <b>MIKRODOT</b> CHIEF KAYA 	<b>MAY 30</b> <b>PIGEON HOLE</b> W/ LOCAL SUPPORT 	<b>MAY 31</b> <b>AUS &amp; TRIVECTA</b> W/ LOCAL SUPPORT 
<b>MAY 31</b> <b>HYPER HYPER HELIUM</b> KARAOKE & DANCE PARTY <b>MUIJE</b> HYPER 	<b>MAY 31</b> <b>STORY PARTY TOUR</b> NIGHT 1 	<b>JUN 01</b> <b>STORY PARTY TOUR</b> NIGHT 2 	<b>JUN 01</b> <b>ELIMINATE</b> W/ DODGE & FUSKI 
<b>JUN 02</b> <b>JELLY ROLL</b> CROSSES & CROSSROADS TOUR 	<b>JUN 06</b> <b>BRIGHTSIDE</b> & TEMPO 	<b>JUN 08</b> <b>BENZI</b> W/ LOCAL SUPPORT 	<b>JUN 08</b> <b>SMILE EMPTY SOUL</b> & FLAW W/ SEPTEMBER MOURNING 

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07/02 AUGUST BURNS RED W/ SILVERSTEIN

7/22 3TEETH  
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# STREET *Style*

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## YAZ LO

28, CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
AT FILIGREE JEWELERS

### What are you wearing?

Pendleton jacket from an antique store, Express tank, jeans from Kohl's, thrifted belt, shoes from Amazon.

### Describe your style:

Mixing of two worlds—I like to pair vintage with modern pieces.

### Favorite places to shop in the Twin Cities:

Statement Boutique, Lululemon for athleisure, basics from Target.

### One thing in your closet you can't live without:

My black turtleneck.



## RADIO AHLEE

23, PROGRESS ENERGY

### What are you wearing?

Vest and hat from Savers, QT shirt, shorts from my mom, *Power Rangers* morpher from a local nerd, shoes from a friend.

### Describe your style:

My style is a feeling, and that is all!

### Favorite places to shop in the Twin Cities:

B. Resale, any thrift stores.

### One thing in your closet you can't live without:

My cane.



## TOMMY COUGHLIN

25, EDUCATOR, MUSICIAN

### What are you wearing?

Vintage New Orleans jazz shirt from Urban Jungle, Alltimers hat, Palace side bag, Quiet Life shorts, Adidas slip-ons.

### Describe your style:

Vintage, colorful, streetwear, flamboyant.

### Favorite places to shop in the Twin Cities:

Urban Jungle, Mall of St. Paul.

### One thing in your closet you can't live without:

Definitely my disco glasses.



## DENAISHA MOTLEY

20, EDUCATOR

### What are you wearing?

Everything I have on except for my shoes is thrifted.

### Describe your style:

Colorful ghost.

### Favorite places to shop in the Twin Cities:

Savers on Lake Street.

### One thing in your closet you can't live without:

My black boots.



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# TAKE ME TO CHURCH

With *Amazing Grace* and *Homecoming*, Aretha Franklin and Beyoncé create distinctly African-American cultural spaces

BY KEITH HARRIS

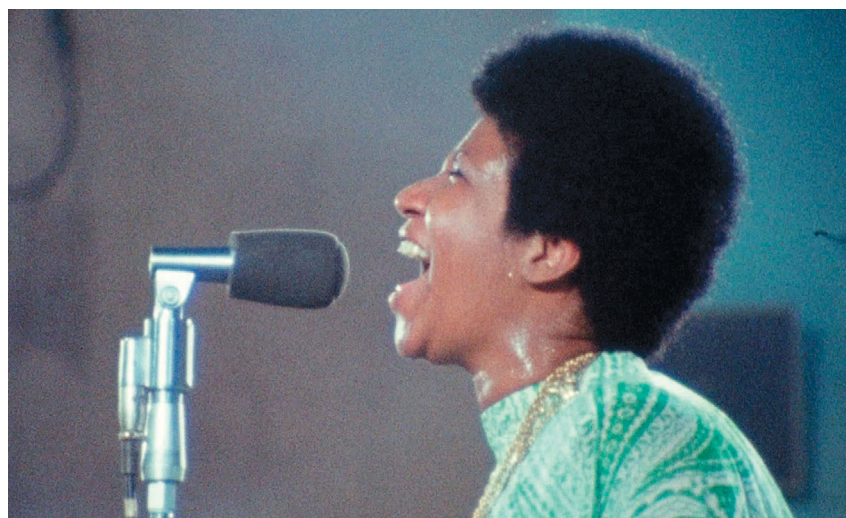
I don't believe in God but I believe in Aretha Franklin.

And sometimes that feels like cheating. After all, what made Aretha one of the (ten? six? three? does the exact number even matter once you've narrowed it down that far?) greatest singers in pop history isn't merely her physical gifts or her sheer determination or her musical intelligence or her diva attitude, though of course all of those vague but actual qualities play their role in the creation of the vague but actual quality we call "soul." It's not even just what this nonbeliever would like to rationalize as a "spiritual tradition." It is also, quite literally, Christianity.

Among other things, the long delayed not-exactly-documentary/not-quite-concert-film *Amazing Grace*, like the album whose creation it witnesses, forces secular Aretha fans to address that faith front and center. The January 1972 session/performance was filmed by Sydney Pollack, who can be seen darting around the New Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Watts as though his crew's beaching at Normandy. And the event truly was an ordeal: Pollack didn't synch the audio during production, so the footage was unusable for nearly four decades. After producer Alan Elliott salvaged it in 2010, Aretha Franklin sued to prevent distribution for the same reason Aretha Franklin did most things: because she could. Then she died.

In *Amazing Grace* we see (and hear) Franklin in her prime at 29—if she'd vanished from the Earth before she strode toward the altar to join her friend Reverend James Cleveland and the Southern California Community Choir, her previous five years as a hitmaker would have already secured her legacy. The album itself, *Amazing Grace*, is, as you might expect, the best-selling gospel album of all time; it's also, as you might not expect, the best-selling album of Aretha Franklin's career.

If soul secularized gospel, Franklin takes the opposite tack here, sanctify-



NEON VIA AP

ing pop. She begins with Marvin Gaye's "Wholly Holy," and later transforms Carole King's "You've Got a Friend" into something weightier than James Taylor's wan familiar of companionship. What you hear in Franklin's voice isn't the certainty of Jesus' friendship, but the need for it. As that pop song flows into a medley with "Precious Lord Take My Hand," the assurance of the choir creates a dialectic with Franklin's pain, struggle balanced with deliverance. The call-and-response format frees Franklin from carrying the melody and allows her to riff off songs like "Mary Don't You Weep" she'd surely known since

she was a girl, and by the time she arrives at the film's title hymn, her voice rings out with absolute conviction, shouts from the choir driving her on.

The film brims with outsized personalities. There are, of course, the preachers: Aretha's father, C.L. Franklin, his deliberate oratory steeped in Baptist tradition, contrasting with the more hep James Cleveland, who undercuts his own seriousness with a knowing self-deprecation. Choir director Alexander Hamilton is a dynamo, but the breakout star is one short male choir member with a killer process who looks like nothing less than a black

Elton John, and one woman overwhelmed by the spirit who has to be restrained by gospel great (and Aretha mentor) Clara Ward also deserves mention. Mick Jagger, skulking politely around in the crowd, is maybe the 30th most charismatic person in the room.

And Aretha herself? "I was unprepared... for how tired Franklin appears," Emily Lordi recently wrote in an essay on the film for the *New Yorker*. And, I'd add, shy... or maybe simply businesslike, a professional hard at work? The woman at the core of this film remains inscrutable, at home at yet isolated, far from a superstar, at her most comfortable behind the protective barrier of her piano.

For skeptical rock fans, *Amazing Grace* can sound like a retreat into the safety of the familiar; for devout believers it's just as tempting to hear it as Aretha revealed in her element at last. But Franklin's overall career suggests that neither view is wholly accurate: She continually shunned safety and refused to allow any single sound to define her. What was consistently remarkable about Aretha Franklin as an artist wasn't just her timbre or melisma or whatever audible ineffability you want to lump under the term "voice." It wasn't even her versatility, her willingness and ability to adjust to changing rhythms. It was her insistence on remaining contemporary.

Maybe you think the '80s boom-thwap of producer Narada Michael Walden on hits like "Freeway of Love" was beneath her; the queen gives not the faintest echo of a fuck. She might have recreated her '60s arrangements in her dotage, or, as longtime producer Jerry Wexler hoped his whole life, recorded an album of standards. But whether backed by the Muscle Shoals sessioners on her soul debutante classic *I Never Loved a Man the Way I Love You* in 1967 or assaying hip-hop with Lauryn Hill and Puffy Combs on her 1998 comeback *A Rose Is Still a Rose* or testifying on *Amazing Grace* in 1972, Franklin kept moving forward for a simple reason: because she could.

*Amazing Grace* arrived in theaters in time for Easter, which, coincidentally, was





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Sunday, May 5    7:30 pm <b>Al Church's Cinematic Orchestra</b> <b>The Phantom of the Opera</b> (1925) SCORED LIVE!	Saturday Matinee, May 4    1:00 pm <b>The Sandlot</b> (1993) Digital
Saturday, May 11    8:00 pm <b>Tina Schlieske</b> w. <i>Her Crooked Heart</i> and <i>Mary Bue &amp; The Monarchy</i>	Thursday, May 9    7:30 pm <b>Dirty Dancing</b> (1987) Digital Pre-Show Music by <b>Al Church</b>
Friday, May 24    7:00 pm <b>The Parkway Pick-off</b> Bluegrass <i>Battle of the Bands</i>	Friday, May 10    9:00 pm <b>Hellbound</b> (2018) Digital Presented by Heavy & Fulton Brewing

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PARKWOOD ENTERTAINMENT/NETFLIX VIA AP

also around the time Netflix premiered *Homecoming*, the concert film of Beyoncé's triumphant 2018 Coachella performances. And so, side by side, we get to watch two great artists using their fame to carve out spaces for African-American culture to thrive. Arriving much later on the scene, Beyoncé has to be more transparent in spelling out what she does. She doesn't have the readymade intimacy of the church to retreat to; instead Beyoncé invented a postmodern black tradition in the desert out of the trappings of the Historical Black Colleges and Universities: marching bands, Greek life signifiers, stepping, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," Frankie Beverly and Maze.

Where Aretha is opaque, Beyoncé canily deploys autobiography in the service of her art: Destiny's Child reunites; Bey performs an adorable routine with her sister Solange; Jay-Z appears after getting his ass repeatedly dragged by the woman-scorned tracks from *Lemonade*. And spliced between the performance

footage are backstage scenes that stress the work that goes into a Beyoncé concert and her control over the affair. The more she reveals, the more unknowable she becomes, just as the spectacle allows her to belong to something larger than herself, but also makes herself larger than the show.

Even a dense white viewer (OK, maybe not the absolute densest) can't help but watch *Amazing Grace* or *Homecoming* without a demand that if you love the artist, you must respect the world she comes from. But that's hardly either singer's primary message. Yes, each performance is a way of reclaiming pop from the marketplace, where race becomes a commodity for any artist to appropriate, by reconstituting traditions within a context too full to be plundered by white opportunists. But both *Homecoming* and *Amazing Grace* exist to represent black worlds to black audiences. What's remarkable about both is that Beyoncé and Aretha don't shun the white gaze; they just treat it as incidental, or even insignificant. Because they can. **EP**

## CRITICS' PICKS

## LUCKY

WHOLE MUSIC CLUB, THURSDAY 5.2

Chicago's Lucky, fka Lucky Eck\$, arrived branding himself as an "alternative trap" rapper, and though he's still just 22, he's had a lock on his underground lane for years. He's worked with people like Chance the Rapper and FKA Twigs, but Lucky's own style has enough nuances and dimensions on its own: nonchalant, drowsy flows over tingly, woozy beats that have sneaky ways of staying inside a listener's head. In February, he returned with the third installment in his *Freewave* mixtape series, the best one yet. 18+. 8 p.m. \$5/\$10. 300 Washington Ave. SE, Minneapolis; 612-626-7008. —MICHAEL MADDEN

## OMARA PORTUONDO

ORDWAY, SATURDAY 5.4

Cuban diva Omara Portuondo was an original member of the Buena Vista Social Club, the '90s phenomenon that shed light on Cuban music and a generation of musicians obscured by politics. This is the 88-year-old's final global tour, but she insists she isn't retiring. Supporting her will be renowned Cuban pianist Roberto Fonseca's trio (bassist Yandy Martinez, drummer Ruly Herrera), plus percussionist Andrés Coayo. On 2018's *Omara Siempre*, her voice is rich and supple, marvelously negotiating the repertoire's nuances. 7:30 p.m. \$48-\$79. 345 Washington St., St. Paul; 651-224-4222. —RICK MASON

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**Friday, May 3**  
The Cedar and Brazilfest MN Present  
**ANOTHER NIGHT IN BRAZIL**  
Doors 7pm • Show 8pm • All Ages • \$18 ADV/\$23 DOS

**Saturday, May 4**  
First Avenue Presents  
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**Sunday, May 5**  
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65						66					67		

FUSILLI QUESTIONS

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 Stories with too many characters to keep track of
- 6 Be in sync (with)
- 10 Mobil stuff
- 13 To no \_\_\_\_
- 14 Australia's national gemstone
- 15 Labour party's symbol
- 16 CX-9 maker
- 17 Where one's buds hang?
- 18 "Frozen" cosplayer's choice
- 19 Cheap thriller about tubular pasta?
- 22 AKA in an LLC
- 24 Young miss
- 25 1972 Bill Withers hit
- 26 Some mythical birds
- 28 Coniferous tree
- 30 Was unconsciously loud
- 31 Proof of burning
- 33 City due south of Stillwater, OK
- 35 Modern-day car message that alerts when near pasta?
- 40 Cup name
- 41 Slalom Olympian Phil
- 42 Gets darker
- 45 Busch Stadium insignia
- 47 "Narcos: Mexico" star Michael
- 48 Valuable string name
- 49 Testing spot
- 51 Conservative firebrand Shapiro
- 52 Down-at-the-heel type who loves pasta?

- 57 Preposition made of two prepositions
- 58 Norwegian king name
- 59 Wear down
- 62 Lunchtime
- 63 Central positions
- 64 Latin lamb
- 65 Miracle-\_\_\_\_ (amateur planter's purchase)
- 66 Senator's evasive move
- 67 Pluckiness

Down

- 1 Esmail who directed "Homecoming" and "Mr. Robot"
- 2 DuVernay who directed "Selma" and "Queen Sugar"
- 3 Spanish cold soup
- 4 Campaign assistant
- 5 urbandictionary.com fodder
- 6 Sinatra's role in "The Joker Is Wild"
- 7 Device that comes in Pro, Air, and Mini versions
- 8 Sessions successor
- 9 Other word?
- 10 Green party advocate?
- 11 Take at face value
- 12 Closed up
- 15 Sports gear with a "B" on it
- 20 Negative vote
- 21 Dorothy Gale's relative

- 22 Make an hour feel like a week, say
- 23 Cap'n's mate
- 27 Saliva or spit, e.g.
- 29 Stands in shallow water
- 30 Alkie
- 32 Like some Sunday drives
- 34 "That's life!"
- 36 Dudes
- 37 Birthplace of rap
- 38 Coastal bird
- 39 Duke's overseer?
- 42 Enjoying a staycation
- 43 All-white key scale
- 44 Leg band?
- 46 Fond du \_\_\_\_, Wisconsin.
- 50 Scrubs on the bench
- 53 Request to a librarian
- 54 Skin care ingredient
- 55 Pool hall tool
- 56 Logician's word
- 60 Swerver's problem: Abbr.
- 61 Des Moines-to-Peoria dir.

Last Week's Answer



331club

wed : may 1  
last wednesday bent paddle  
infusion keg tapped at noon!  
7pm : kfai house party presents  
tommy the beard's birthday bash  
the big wu  
9:30pm : the laughing waters

thu : may 2  
9:30pm : emily nicole, the changeups,  
stephanie was and the way back

fri : may 3  
7pm : laura and sean's  
movie and music trivia  
10pm : filthy animals (cd release),  
the smokes,  
dr. goon and the daily tribune

sat : may 4  
7pm : trivia mafia presents  
331 drinkin' spelling bee  
10pm : linus, dingus,  
my kid banana

sun : may 5  
3-5pm : rezi city: asa jones  
memorial golf tournament  
8pm : trivia mafia

mon : may 6  
8pm : the roe family singers  
10pm : doug otto and friends

tue : may 7  
7-9pm : t.e.e. tuesday early evening  
ted cruz from memory release  
celebration  
9:30pm : 331 club and fair state brewing  
cooperative present may conspiracy series  
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SATURDAY MAY 4

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Brezsný

♈ **ARIES** (March 21-April 19): "How prompt we are to satisfy the hunger and thirst of our bodies," wrote Henry David Thoreau. "How slow to satisfy the hunger and thirst of our souls!" Your first assignment in the coming days, Aries, is to devote yourself to quenching the hunger and thirst of your soul with the same relentless passion that you normally spend on giving your body the food and drink it craves. This could be challenging. You may be less knowledgeable about what your soul thrives on than what your body loves. So your second assignment is to do extensive research to determine what your soul needs to thrive.

♉ **TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): I invite you to explore the frontiers of what's possible for you to experience and accomplish. One exercise that might help: Visualize specific future adventures that excite you. Examples? Picture yourself parasailing over the Mediterranean Sea near Barcelona, or working to help endangered sea turtles in Costa Rica, or giving a speech to a crowded auditorium on a subject you will someday be an expert in. The more specific your fantasies, the better. Your homework is to generate at least five of these visions.

♊ **GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): In 1815, "We must choose between the pain of having to transcend oppressive circumstances, or the pain of perpetual unfulfillment within those oppressive circumstances," writes mental health strategist Paul John Moscatello. We must opt for "the pain of growth or the pain of decay," he continues. We must either "embrace the tribulations of realizing our potential, or consent to the slow suicide in complacency." That's a bit melodramatic, in my opinion. Most of us do both; we may be successful for a while in transcending oppressive circumstances, but then temporarily lapse back into the pain of unfulfillment. However, there are times when it makes sense to think melodramatically. And I believe now is one of those times for you. In the coming weeks, I hope you will set in motion plans to transcend at least 30 percent of your oppressive circumstances.

♋ **CANCER** (June 21-July 22): You Cancerians can benefit from always having a fertility symbol somewhere in your environment: an icon or image that reminds you to continually refresh your relationship with your own abundant creativity; an inspiring talisman or toy that keeps you alert to the key role your fecund imagination can and should play in nourishing your quest to live a meaningful life; a provocative work of art that spurs you to always ask for more help and guidance from the primal source code that drives you to reinvent yourself. So if you don't have such a fertility symbol, I invite you to get one. If you do, enhance it with a new accessory.

♌ **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): In my horoscopes, I often speak to you about your personal struggle for liberation and your efforts to express your soul's code with ever more ingenuity and completeness. It's less common that I address your sacred obligation to give back to life for all that life has given to you. I only infrequently discuss how you might engage in activities to help your community or work for the benefit of those less fortunate than you. But now is one of those times when I feel moved to speak of these matters. You are in a phase of your astrological cycle when it's crucial to perform specific work on behalf of a greater good. Why crucial? Because your personal well-being in the immediate future depends in part on your efforts to intensify your practical compassion.

♍ **VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "We are whiplashed between an arrogant overestimation of ourselves and a servile underestimation of ourselves," writes educator Parker Palmer. That's the bad news, Virgo. The good news is that you are in prime position to escape from the whiplash. Cosmic forces are conspiring with your eternal soul to coalesce a well-balanced vision of your true value that's free of both vain misapprehensions and self-deprecating delusions. Congrats! You're empowered to understand yourself with a tender objectivity that could at least partially heal lingering wounds. See yourself truly!

♎ **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The country of Poland awards medals to couples that have stayed married for 50 years. It also gives out medals to members of the armed forces who have served for at least 30 years. But the marriage medal is of higher rank, and is more prestigious. In that spirit, I'd love for you to get a shiny badge or prize to acknowledge your devoted commitment to a sacred task—whether that commitment is to an intimate alliance, a noble quest, or a promise to yourself. It's time to reward yourself for how hard you've worked and how much you've given.

♏ **SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Scorpio poet Sylvia Plath wrote, "I admit I desire, Occasionally, some backtalk/From the mute sky." You'll be wise to borrow the spirit of that mischievous declaration. Now is a good time to solicit input from the sky, as well as from your allies and friends and favorite animals, and from every other source that might provide you with interesting feedback. I invite you to regard the whole world as your mirror, your counselor, your informant.

♐ **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In January 1493, the notorious pirate and kidnapper Christopher Columbus was sailing his ship near the land we now call the Dominican Republic. He spotted three creatures he assumed were mermaids. Later he wrote in his log that they were "not half as beautiful as they are painted [by artists]." We know now that the "mermaids" were actually manatees, aquatic mammals with flippers and paddle-shaped tails. They are in fact quite beautiful in their own way, and would only be judged as homely by a person comparing them to mythical enchantresses. I trust you won't make a similar mistake, Sagittarius. Evaluate everything and everyone on their own merits, without comparing them to something they're not.

♑ **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "I want what we all want," writes novelist Jonathan Lethem. "To move certain parts of the interior of myself into the exterior world, to see if they can be embraced." Even if you haven't passionately wanted that lately, Capricorn, I'm guessing you will soon. That's a good thing, because life will be conspiring with you to accomplish it. Your ability to express yourself in ways that are meaningful to you and interesting to other people will be at a peak.

♒ **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Using algorithms to analyze 300 million facts, a British scientist concluded that April 11, 1954 was the most boring day in history. A Turkish man who would later become a noteworthy engineer was born that day, and Belgium staged a national election. But that's all. With this non-eventful day as your inspiration, I encourage you to have fun reminiscing about the most boring times in your own past. I think you need a prolonged respite from the stimulating frenzy of your daily rhythm. It's time to rest and relax in the sweet luxury of nothingness and emptiness.

♓ **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): *The Blue Room* is a famous Picasso painting from 1901. Saturated with blue hues, it depicts a naked woman taking a bath. More than a century after its creation, scientists used X-rays to discover that there was an earlier painting beneath *The Blue Room* and obscured by it. It shows a man leaning his head against his right hand. Piscean poet Jane Hirshfield says that there are more people who are "like a painting hidden beneath another painting." More of you Pisceans fit that description than any other sign of the zodiac. You may even be like a painting beneath a painting beneath a painting—to a depth of five or more paintings. Is that a problem? Not necessarily. But it is important to be fully aware of the existence of all the layers. Now is a good time to have a check-in.

freewillastrology@freewillastrology.com

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# Weight List

Should I tell my students they're single because they're obese?

**I**'m a college prof. Several female students have confided in me they're having trouble finding guys. (They're not hitting on me—and even if they were, no way am I dating a student.) These girls are smart, nice, interesting, and usually obese. You and I both know that in this imperfect world, many (most?) people place importance on looks. But how do I tell them that? A straight, single, male professor telling a female student, even gently, that dropping 20 pounds might help her dating prospects is extremely risky.

PROFESSIONALLY RISKY  
OBSERVATION FLUMMOXES

**Oh my god. Keep your mouth shut.** First, because it's an asshole thing to say—never mind the professional risk—and second, because it's not true. (Welcome to America, PROF, where most people are overweight or obese and most people are partnered or married.) The likelier culprit here (besides a skewed sample size and confirmation bias) is the scarcity of available male partners. Women now significantly outnumber men on college campuses: “Where men once went to college in proportions far higher than women—58 percent to 42 percent as recently as the 1970s—the ratio has now almost exactly reversed,” Jon Marcus wrote in the Atlantic. Graduating will probably do more to improve their romantic prospects than dropping 20 pounds.

*I've been with my boyfriend for a few months. Prior to dating, I was clear with him that I would need to open our relationship at some point. He initially hesitated to respond, but then agreed we could do that when the time came. That time has come much quicker than I anticipated, but I feel like he'll renege on his end of things because of many comments he's made recently—comments like not understanding or liking nonmonogamy and how “his woman” sleeping around is a deal-breaker. Is this a DTMFA situation?*

SPECIFIED OPEN RELATIONSHIP EARLY

**Early on,** you let your boyfriend know that openness “at some point” was your price of admission—the price he'd have to pay to be with you—and now he's letting you know that monogamy is his price of



Dan Savage

admission. What's going on here? Well, sometimes Person A tells Person B what Person A knows Person B wants to hear regarding Topic X in the hopes that Person B will feel differently about Topic X after the passage of time or after Person B has made a large emotional investment in Person A. In many cases, Person A has the best intentions—by which I mean, Person A isn't being consciously manipulative, but rather Person A sincerely hopes Person B will come to feel differently about Topic X. But considering how little time has passed, SORE—it hasn't even been three months, and he's saying shitty/judgy things to you about nonmonogamy and sexist/controlling things about “his woman”—it seems clear that your boyfriend wasn't being sincere, he was being manipulative. DTMFA.

*I recently broke up with a girl because she didn't know what plate tectonics was. We dated for three months. Great sex! Loved cooking together! Enjoyed spending time with her! But she was raised Mormon—and more important than that, she was simply NOT CURIOUS about science and the world. In all honesty, I think she's a little dumb, although she doesn't come off that way. Science! Politics! Philosophy! All of these things are important in my life! Am I wrong for breaking up with her?*

DATE TECTONICS

No! You did her a favor! I knew nothing about classical music before I fell in love with someone who's passionate about classical music. I know a lot about it now and I actually enjoy it—but I didn't get there in three months. My husband didn't follow the news closely until he fell in love with a news junkie. Now he's a daily reader of the New York Times and the Washington Post—but he didn't get there in three months. The more time we spent together, the more interest we took in each other's interests. There's a lesson in here for you somewhere, DT, but I'm going to let you tease it out—because you're CURIOUS and SMART, right?

mail@savagelove.net

Follow Dan on Twitter: @fakedansavage  
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